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Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Bangladesh, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Thailand and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: revised draft resolution

Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: towards a society for all in the twenty-first century

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 37/52 of 3 December 1982, by which it adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, 48/96 of 20 December 1993, by which it adopted the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, 49/153 of 23 December 1994, 50/144 of 21 December 1995 and 52/82 of 12 December 1997,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 1997/19 of 21 July 1997 on equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities and 1997/20 of 21 July 1997 on children with disabilities and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/31 of 17 April 1998 on the human rights of persons with disabilities,[1]

Recalling further the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and reaffirming the obligations contained in relevant human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[2] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[3]

Reaffirming the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits and their respective follow-up reviews, in particular as they pertain to the promotion of the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities,

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[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[2] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[3] Resolution 44/25, annex.

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Noting with appreciation the important contributions of subregional, regional and international seminars and conferences related to persons with disabilities, such as the Fifth World Assembly of Disabled People's International, held in Mexico City from 1 to 7 December 1998, on the theme "Towards an inclusive twenty-first century",

Expressing grave concern that situations of armed conflict have especially devastating consequences for the human rights of persons with disabilities,

Mindful of the need to adopt and implement effective policies and strategies to promote the rights and the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in economic, social, cultural and political life, on the basis of equality, to achieve a society for all,

Concerned that improvement of disability awareness and sensitivity to disability issues have not been significant enough to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities worldwide,

Recognizing the importance of timely and reliable data on disability-sensitive policies, programme planning and evaluation and the need for further development of practical statistical methodology for data collection and compilation on populations with disabilities,

Realizing that technology, in particular information technology, provides new possibilities for improving accessibility and employment by persons with disabilities and for facilitating their full participation and equality, and welcoming the initiatives of the United Nations to promote information technology as a means of achieving the universal goal of a society for all,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;[4]

2. *Welcomes* the initiatives of Governments, the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations for the further equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the valuable work undertaken by the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development during his second mandate for the period 1997-2000;

4. *Encourages* Governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, as appropriate, to take concrete measures for the further equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities by focusing on accessibility, health, social services, including training and rehabilitation, safety nets, employment and sustainable livelihoods, in the design and implementation of strategies, policies and programmes to promote a more inclusive society;

5. *Calls upon* Governments to undertake all necessary measures to advance beyond the adoption of national plans for people with disabilities through, *inter alia*, the creation or reinforcement of arrangements for the promotion and awareness of disability issues and the allocation of sufficient resources for the full implementation of existing plans and initiatives and emphasizes the importance of supporting national efforts through international cooperation in this regard;

6. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to take practical actions, including public information campaigns, by, with and for persons with disabilities, with a view to increasing disability awareness and sensitivity to disability issues and to combating and overcoming

[4] A/54/388 and Add.1.

discrimination against persons with disabilities and to further their full and effective participation in society;

7. *Encourages* Governments to continue their support to non-governmental organizations contributing to the fulfilment of the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;

8. *Also encourages* Governments to involve persons with disabilities in the formulation of strategies and plans aimed at eradicating poverty, promoting education and enhancing employment;

9. *Urges* relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, including relevant human rights treaty bodies, and the regional commissions, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations and institutions, to work closely with the United Nations programme on persons with disabilities in the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities, including activities at the field level, by sharing experiences, findings and recommendations on persons with disabilities;

10. *Urges* Governments to cooperate with the United Nations Statistics Division in the continued development of global statistics and indicators on disability, and encourages them to avail themselves of the technical assistance of the Division to build national capacities for national data-collection systems, as needed;

11. *Urges* Governments, in collaboration with the United Nations system, to give special attention to the rights, needs and well-being of children with disabilities and their families in the development of policies and programmes;

12. *Encourages* Governments, concerned non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue to support the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability with a view to fully implementing the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, including the work of the Special Rapporteur, and to support activities to build national capacities, with emphasis on priorities identified in General Assembly resolution 52/82 of 12 December 1997;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue supporting initiatives of relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, as well as those of regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions, for the promotion of the human rights of persons with disabilities and the further implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, and in their efforts to integrate persons with disabilities in technical cooperation activities, both as beneficiaries and as decision makers;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include in his assessments of the implementation of the outcome of major United Nations conferences and summits to be considered at the forthcoming special sessions of the General Assembly, the contribution of these meetings to the promotion of the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities;

15. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his efforts in improving the accessibility of the United Nations for persons with disabilities, and urges him to continue implementing plans to provide a barrier-free environment, as well as information in accessible format and communication services;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session through the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-ninth session, a report on the implementation of the present resolution.